



## WISE DECLARES STATE OF EMERGENCY IN 12 NORTHERN COUNTIES

Jan 06, 2005

CHARLESTON, W.Va. - Gov. Bob Wise today declared a state of emergency covering 12 northern West Virginia counties that are being hammered by severe rainfall.

The emergency declaration covers Brooke, Hancock, Jackson, Marion, Marshall, Mason, Monongalia, Ohio, Pleasants, Tyler, Wetzel and Wood counties. The region has been hit by a massive storm system that moved into the area on Wednesday. Rain is expected to continue through much of Thursday.

"The state of emergency declaration allows us to pre-deploy National Guard liaison teams and to more easily provide assistance to local and county agencies," Wise said. "We certainly hope we won't have to employ significant emergency measures, but it's extremely important for us to be prepared to do so."

The state's Emergency Operations Center is being activated at noon. The EOC will be staffed by personnel from the West Virginia Office of Emergency Services, Army National Guard, Department of Health and Human Services, Department of Transportation, Department of Education and the American Red Cross.

The EOC will remain open until further notice.